IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kiyoshi SEIZU

Serial No.: 09/705,750

Filed: November 6, 2000

BENT WORK AND BENDING METHOD AND BENDING DEVICE USED

THEREFOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

For:

Group Art Unit: 1725

Examiner: Zidia T. Pittman

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

Documents AE through AM were cited in the Japanese Office Action dated January 23, 2003. A copy of the Office Action is also attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage for the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of either a final official action or a Notice of Allowance. A check is attached hereto which covers the \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p).

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37

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CFR 1.104(a) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

Donald W. Hanson Attorney for Applicants Reg. No. 27,133

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

DWH/nk

Enclosures: PTO-1449: Office Action; 10 Documents; Check for \$180